

## Message Text

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52

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 /155 W

----- 125509

R 071457 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 16

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLS STOCKHOLM 1542

E. O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH BUSINESS LEADERS CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT

### SUMMARY

AT ANNUAL MEETING OF FEDERATION OF SWEDISH INDUSTRIES, BUSINESS LEADERS LEVELED UNUSUALLY SHARP CRITICISM AT GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND ATTITUDE TOWARD PRIVATE INDUSTRY. SINCE BUSINESS OUTLOOK IS NOW RELATIVELY BRIGHT WITH CYCLICAL UPTURN GAINING MOMENTUM, SHARP ATTACKS SHOULD BE VIEWED IN LIGHT CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN AS WELL AS GENUINE DESIRE OF BUSINESS TO PREVENT FURTHER GOVERNMENT CONTROLS AND EVEN HIGHER TAXES TO PAY FOR NEW WELFARE PROGRAMS BEING PROPOSED. END SUMMARY

1. AT FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 3 ERLAND WALDERSTROM ( CHAIRMAN OF BOTH FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES AND BOARD OF GRANGES AB) LED OFF BY CITING LOW PROFITABILITY AND INVESTMENT, AND DETERIORATING SOLVENCY OF FIRMS AS CAUSES OF REAL CONCERN. HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT WAS DIRECT RESULT OF " FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES." TAX BURDEN, ON FIRMS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS, HAD BECOME UNTENABLE. HE CONCLUDED ON NOTE THAT " HALF- HEARTED UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTITUDE WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS TOWARD BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CONTAINS ELEMENTS OF AN IDEOLOGY WHICH REGARDS WITH SUSPICION PERSONS WHO ARE INDUSTRIOUS, CREATIVE, AND WILLING TO TAKE RISKS." DOUBLESOME BECAUSE IMPLICATIONS OF DESCRIBING MBFR AS REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATION ARE

UNCLEAR. REFERENCE TO "REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS" IN PARAS F AND M OF STATEMENT IS MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM, SINCE THIS PHRASE DIRECTLY CONFLICTS WITH PREFERRED WESTERN TERMINOLOGY FOR TALKS, SUPPORTS LANGUAGE FAVORED BY SOVIETS, AND PLACES UNWELCOME EMPHASIS ON ARMAMENTS AS DISTINGUISHED FROM FORCES. WE ARE SIMILARLY DISTURBED BY APPARENT ATTEMPT IN PARA J OF TEXT TO PREJUDICE QUESTION OF STATIONED VS. INDIGENOUS FORCES, AND OVERLY EXPLICIT STATEMENT ON VERIFICATION ISSUE IN PARA L.

3. AS WITH DUTCH STATEMENT (REF B), WE BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THESE DISADVANTAGES COULD BE ABATED OR REMOVED IF GREATER CARE WERE TAKEN TO LABEL THE ENTIRE OPENING STATEMENT OR THE VARIANT VIEWS NOTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE AS NATIONAL VIEWS. ON THE ONE HAND, HOWEVER, THIS MIGHT RUN COUNTER TO THRUST OF COORDINATION EFFORT, AND ON THE OTHER HAND BELGIAN STATEMENT, UNLIKE DUTCH, CONTAINS SO MANY VIEWS NOT AGREED WITHIN ALLIANCE THAT EVEN CLEAR NATIONAL LABEL MIGHT NOT AVOID TWIN DANGER THAT EAST WILL TAKE IT AS SIGNAL EITHER THAT WEST IS IN PROFOUND DISARRAY ON MAJOR ISSUES OR THAT THESE VARIANT VIEWS ARE IN FACT WESTERN TRIAL BALLOONS. THUS, WE BELIEVE STRONG EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE IN BRUSSELS, NOTING THAT WE UNDERSTAND STATEMENT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT POSITION, TO OBTAIN MODIFICATIONS ALONG LINES NOTED IN PARA 2 TO CONFORM TO AGREED ALLIANCE POSITIONS. WE NOTE (PARA 9, REF A) THAT BELGIAN REP HAS ALREADY AGREED TO DELETE REFERENCE TO OVERT INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION MECHANISMS, AND CONCLUDE THAT SOME FLEXIBILITY MAY EXIST.

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4. USNATO AND EMBASSY BRUSSELS SHOULD COORDINATE APPROACHES TO BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE AND APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL OF FON OFF TO URGE THAT BELGIAN LANGUAGE BE MODIFIED SO AS NOT TO CONFLICT WITH OR PREJUDICE ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. RUSH

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

SECRET

NMAFVVZCZ

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HELSINKI  
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